

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Jenkinstown, Co. Louth
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Padraic O'Connor
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1954 <b>Home County:</b> Louth
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's Lordship, Co. Louth <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Dundalk
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Patrick's, Lordship
<b>Occupation</b>	Insurance Broker
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer & Sand and Gravel Salesman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1953 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Louth
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Politics, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Padraic talks about his involvement with the St Patrick's club in Dundalk. He recalls playing for the club in his younger days before leaving to work in Dublin for some years. Upon his return he played for the club again and later became involved in administration, first as chairman of St Patrick's and then as a development officer for the Louth County Board. In time he became chairman of the Louth County Board, where he quickly began developing strategies, working on projects and trying to improve the overall state of the GAA in Louth. Padraic discusses the problems that he has encountered along the way, addresses the issue of paying managers within the GAA and revisits Louth's controversial loss to Meath in the 2010 Leinster football final. Despite occasional setbacks he is a man of action who is determined to build for the future of Louth GAA rather than spend too much time dwelling on what has gone on in the past.</p> <p>00:25 Club is St Patrick's.</p> <p>00:35 Going to Paddy Finnegan's field to watch St Pat's in the 1960s. Ditches there since the Famine.</p> <p>01:20 Playing at Under-12 level.</p> <p>01:30 His father, Tommy, a founding member of the club.</p> <p>01:35 Going to Dowdallshill in Dundalk in his father's car. Problem with a front tyre.</p> <p>02:35 Watching Meath and Galway play in Croke Park. Jack Quinn playing.</p> <p>03:00 Father talking about his involvement in setting up the</p>

	<p>club.</p> <p>03:15 Relationship between Cooley Kickhams and his own club.</p> <p>03:40 Cooley Kickhams' jerseys and relationship to St Pat's.</p> <p>04:10 His brother, Tom, playing for club and county.</p> <p>04:25 Moving to Dublin in the 1970s and missing out on playing at home.</p> <p>04:40 Returning home some years later.</p> <p>04:50 Success of the club at minor level.</p> <p>05:05 Paddy Keenan, Dessie Finnegan playing well for Louth.</p> <p>05:40 Becoming chairman of the club in 2002. Peter Fitzpatrick, Louth manager in 2010, managing St Pat's. Gerard Cummiskey a selector.</p> <p>06:20 St Pat's team in 2010.</p> <p>06:25 His son, Eoin, playing with St Pat's and with Louth at Under-21 level.</p> <p>06:40 Reasons for not playing GAA in Dublin.</p> <p>07:30 Losing his thumb and stopping playing. His brother, Brian, asking him to be chairman of the club.</p> <p>07:45 Building a new sports centre and improving facilities.</p> <p>08:00 Achieving his objectives in his time as chairman.</p> <p>08:05 Taking a step back from the club and reasons for that.</p> <p>08:30 Becoming development officer for the Louth County Board.</p> <p>08:45 Previous chairman, Paddy Oliver, finishing up with the Louth County Board and he going forward. Securing the role in 2009.</p> <p>09:30 Difficulties of his job as chairman. Frequency of meetings.</p>
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	<p>09:55 New faces coming on the county board.</p> <p>10:00 Louth's success and near-win against Meath in the 2010 Leinster final.</p> <p>10:25 Focusing on the club championship. Talking to Liam Mulvihill about the importance of clubs.</p> <p>10:55 Plans for the future.</p> <p>11:30 Role of chairman and what that involves. Meetings he attends.</p> <p>12:40 Projects they are working on.</p> <p>12:55 County grounds issue in Louth. Examining proposals.</p> <p>13:15 What the issue with the county grounds is. O'Rahilly's club leasing the county grounds for 150 years and problems that creates.</p> <p>14:15 Dundalk IT proposing a sports stadium.</p> <p>15:20 Improved success of Louth team.</p> <p>15:40 Employing full-time coaches and benefits of that.</p> <p>16:00 Major challenges he faces as county board chairman. Need for a proper home venue.</p> <p>16:30 Issue of paying managers in the GAA. Louth's approach.</p> <p>17:05 Trying to get clubs to develop their own coaches.</p> <p>17:30 Lack of unity in Louth. Trying to change that.</p> <p>17:50 Louth's lack of success on the national stage since 1957.</p> <p>18:45 Administrative training he got from the GAA.</p> <p>19:30 Learning from those who preceded him in administrative positions.</p> <p>19:55 Trying to decide whether to appeal or not after 2010 Leinster final.</p>
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	20:30 Delegating to people and how that works.  20:55 Club winning the championship in 2003.  21:10 Losing the final some years later.  21:20 Disappointment of losing 2010 Leinster final.  22:15 What the GAA means to him. Importance of volunteers.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played with St Pat's.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Club Chairman, 2000 – 2005; Louth County Development Officer; Louth County Board Chairman.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:23:36
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_23/05/12\_\_\_\_\_